

Dear Members of The Belgian Researchers:

Have you added some names to your pedigrees ? if so, send them to us, we are starting to prepare our next newsletter which will publish the surnames that appear on your lines. Good news in this newsletter, read carefully "A HUNTING WE WILL GO" by Ardiena Stegen.

One of our members, Pierre Inghels, suggested that a big map of Belgium " Carte Administrative de la Belgique" printed by R. de Rouck, rue de la Ruche 33, Brussels, Belgium (about \$5.00) might be more practical and even better than the individual maps of the provinces, (see our very first newsletter). That suggestion makes a lot of sense.

More about immigration, Margot Hykes adds 2 names to the list of ships of the Red Star Lines, the Westernland and the Friesland. Charlotte Rogers sends us a list of names of Belgian emigrants who landed in N.Y., Aug. 20th, 1890 (reel # 1227 National Archives). Here they are:

Alph. JUAIN	male	28	Glass blower	from Belgium to N.Y.C.
? JUAIN	female	24	"	" " "
Alph. JUAIN	m	11/12	"	" " "
E. DULORIZE	m	36	Glass blower	" " "
Jules DULORIZE	m	3	"	" " "
Eloise CHANSSITEUR	f	33	"	" " "
Berthe CHANSSITEUR	f	8	"	" " "
Emil CHANSSITEUR	m	4	"	" " "
Victor CHANSSITEUR	m	30	Glass blower	" " to Indiana
J. DAUGATTE	m	40	Glass blower	" " " New Albany
Jas.	m	16	Glass blower	" " " " "
Louise SLEUTER	f	24	go to brother	" " " Detroit
Auth. ? DUBOIS	m	31	Glass blower	" " " Meadville, Pa.
Louis DELMONT	m	55	Glass blower	" " " " " "
Alf. CORNET	m	33	Glass blower	" " " " " "
Hortense BRASSEUR	f	37	goes to husband	" " " Jeannette, Pa
Sylvie	f	16	"	" " "
Desire	m	11	"	" " "
Octave	f	9	"	" " "
Augusta	f	6	"	" " "
Edgard	m	11/12	"	" " "

Now let's talk a little about PARISH RECORDS.

In the Roman Catholic Church, since the Concile of Trente, in 1563, the priest in charge of a parish or his assistants, were requested to keep a record of the people baptized, married in their parishes.

At a later date, they were also requested to keep record of 1st. communions and burials. Does it mean that all parishes of Belgium started to keep registers of baptisms, marriages and burials at that early date of 1563 ? no, as you will see through your own experience, some priests started as late as 1675.

Today, a R.C. parish priest still registers the baptisms, marriages, burials and 1st communions of his parishioners, eventhough that civil registration was introduced in 1796, by the French who ruled Belgium at that time, but it was not until 1801, that civil registration was firmly implanted. We refer to the period prior to the annexation of Belgium by France, as the Ancien Regime or Old Regime or Government. In 1778 for the Low Countries (as Belgium was called at that time) and in 1769 for the Prince-Bishopric Liege, the parishes

were asked to make copies of their registers.

In 1796 at the beginning of civil registration, the priests had to surrender their registers to the civil authorities of their towns; some priests refused or neglected to do so, some gave only the copies that they had, keeping the originals.

Between 1865 and 1885, an alphabetical index listing the people baptized, married and buried in each parish, since the beginning of parish records keeping until between 1792 and 1797 (dates varie) was made. Most of these indexes, which are a time saving, are available thru the Genealogical Society which microfilmed them, there are some missing, like the one for Malmedy, that index was destroyed during the war along with Mr. Lang's house where it was kept. (Mr. Lang was a noted genealogist for that area, he died 1 or 2 years ago). In 1959, when the Genealogical Society started her microfilming project in Belgium, the collection of the parish registers begun; the townhalls, the rectories, the archives centers were asked to bring the registers to the State Archives Centers where they were microfilmed. A copy of the microfilms are also kept in Belgium, at the Archives Generales du Royaume.

In our first newsletter I mentionned that eventhough a village had a church it didn't mean that the church was authorized to administer the rites of the Roman Catholic Church, sometimes the church was for only Sunday worshipping. So if the villages, towns communes, (whatever you want to call them) that you are interested in doing your research aren't listed in the Belgian collection of microfilms, it doesn't mean that the records weren't microfilmed, rather that the village was part of one or more of the surrounding parishes. i.e. The village of Hou-tain, Liege was part of the parish of HEURE-le-ROMAIN and also of ROCLERGE, and 5 houses of Hou-tain were under the juridiction of the parish of GLONS !!

When we deal with the parish records we should be aware of many things. First the records are in latin, (sometime abbreviated) dates- hte year, usually appears only at the beginning of the year; some months are abbreviated : September is 7ber or 7er, October, 8ber or 8er, November, 9er or 9ber; December, Xer or Xber.

First names given to children are very important, usually the first male was named after the paternal grandfather , the second male, after the maternal grandfather; the same with girls, but often enough the first girl would be named after the maternal grandmother, the third child was named after the father or the mother. Godfathers and Godmothers are very important too, if alive, the grandparents would become godparents to the first and second children; then the brothers and sisters of the parents whould be called to become godparents.

More about PARISH RECORDS in our subsequent newsletters.

The next newsletter will list the SURNAMES appearing in the lines of of the members of The Belgian Researchers, and also will list some (or all) genealogical, historical, archeological societies in Belgium.

Please send in your remarks about the parish records in your area of research, we would love to publish them.

And since we are so close to Thanksgiving, may I say that I am very grateful to the priests and scribes of the Roman Catholic Church for having faithfully recorded in their registers, the names of my ancestors.

Have a Happy Holiday Season !

Micheline

CUSTOMS OF BELGIUM...CUSTOMS OF BELGIUM...CUSTOMS OF BELGIUM...

St. Nicolas- Sinterklaas

The story of Christmas in Belgium begins with the story of Saint Nicolas, a Christian bishop of the fourth century who was known for his generous deeds and kindly acts. During the weeks before December 6, St. Nicolas has listened at doors and chimneys to learn if the children are good. Along the way St. Nicolas acquired a helper or assistant who carries the birches or willows which punish bad children. In Belgium, the helper is called Black Pete. St. Nicolas' Day, December 6th, has remained the great day for the children; not even Christmas has been able to replace it. St. Nicolas a dignified saint who wears a bishop's robe and mitre, white gloves, and an enormous bishop's ring on his left hand which bewitches every small soul, brings toys and sweets to fill the shoes and plates. Hay and carrots are left for the donkey and cookies or candy for the Saint. (depending on the area he may ride a horse).

Joyeux Noel-Prettige Kerstagen

In Belgium, the keeping of Christmas is a tradition which is scrupulously observed in a particularly colorful and picturesque way. All the important towns in Belgium sparkle in the night. One of the most moving and picturesque Christmas customs is certainly the performance of religious tableaux and the Nativity plays. The Nativity tableaux of Outremeuse at Liege are famous. On Christmas Eve, in the open air near the churches, one can admire tableaux depicting the Nativity scene in Bethlehem. This custom has been revived in several Belgian towns. In certain villages, children still dress up as Wise Men and, with the shining Star on the end of a pole, go from door to door singing carols. According to custom, one has to give them a little money and some sweets; afterwards they go on their way. As the carol says "the road is long and to Bethlehem they must go." In 1954, an association was born in the heart of Brussels called "Noël dans la Cité" Its aim is to persuade people to celebrate Christmas according to tradition, that is to say, in an atmosphere of peace, brotherhood and hope. All over Belgium, it organizes open air carol festivals with mainly young people taking part. On this occasion, children are invited to file past the crib in their town and leave a gift, either large or small. These are then distributed to homes for abandoned children, orphanages and almshouses. In addition to the Christmas trees adorning the main square of most Belgian cities, there are also elaborate illumination displays in the streets and parks. It is the season of gala entertainments, with opera, concerts, ballet and theatre all at their peak. And of course in a country that loves good food as much as the Belgians do, this is the season for extra-special culinary efforts. Many towns still retain their traditional specialties. The "cougous" in Namur, the "bouquettes" in Liege and the "Bratzels" near Eupen. The more modern "Yule Log" has become available and turkey now often replaces the hare and rabbit formerly the main course for Christmas dinner. And the holiday spirit goes right on through to New Year's eve, when again good food and celebrating is done.

Bonne Annee-Gelukkig Nieuwjaar

The above is an article from the Official Belgian Tourist Bureau, sent to us by Maria Murphy.

RECIPE FOR A YULE LOG.

A Yule Log has the shape of a log sawed in two. It is served traditionally at Christmas. The following recipe is easy to make, but it would be best if you would practice at least once, before you make the Yule Log for Christmas. You can make cakes with this recipe and instead of frosting, use jam or pudding. This type of dough does not rise a lot like a typical American cake would. Also, I use an electric stove, so you gas users might have to adjust the temperature of your ovens.

For the dough, you will need:

4 eggs, $2\frac{2}{3}$ ^{cup} sugar, $2\frac{2}{3}$ ^{cup} sifted flour.

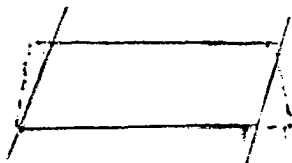
In a deep bowl kept warm, beat the 4 eggs (whole) with $2\frac{2}{3}$ ^{cup} sugar for 10 minutes at the highest speed of your mixer (or until the mixture is light yellow in color and has at least triple its volume). Gently, fold in $2\frac{2}{3}$ cup of flour. (Do not use mixer to fold in flour).

Pour the mixture into a buttered and floured rectangular pan, (like a bread pan) place it in an UNHEATED oven, turn on the heat to 350o, the cake should be done after 25-30 minutes. Remove cake from pan, cool on rack.

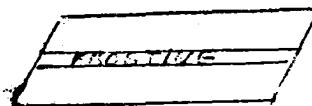
You can use your favorite recipe for frosting, or here is mine.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sweet butter, 1 pinch of salt, 4 cups powdered confectioners 10X sugar, 8 tablespoons of milk, 2 Nestle Choco Bake packets (pre-melted)

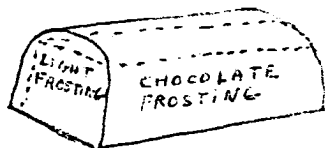
Beat all the ingredients except for the chocolate until light and fluffy, set aside 3 tablespoons of frosting to which add a few drops of vanilla extract, add the chocolate to the rest of the frosting and beat well.



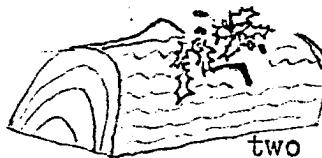
cut ends
at angle



$1\frac{1}{3}$ chocolate
frosting inside



frost cake rounding
corners, using vanilla
frosting for ends.



use fork to make
designs imitating
tree bark, use one or
two small pieces of cake (from
the ends) to make little stumps, frost
them too, use a dime store ornament
(plastic holly and red berries is fine)
to further decorate the log.
Refrigerate.

Bon appetit and Merry Christmas !

P.S. This type of dough is called PATE A SAVOIE

A HUNTING WE WILL GO

In my previous article I stressed using the LDS Genealogical Society Branch Libraries established throughout the United States, Canada and Alaska.

The LDS Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City continues in their program of micro-filming Belgian parish registers and civil records. Many new films are being added to the locality card file showing the new records (films) that are available for patron's use. However I have discovered that the Ogden Branch Library's locality card file has not been updated to reflect all of these new films. This means that all branch libraries have not been updated. This is due I am sure to the rapidity these films are being received.

Soooo... we Belgian Researchers have a problem. How do we make the new film numbers available to researchers who have access to the Branch Genealogical Society Libraries ?

Presently, these new film numbers must be obtained from the main library of the LDS Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City. We, who visit this library, sometimes have a Xerox copy made of the locality card file for a certain town. The cost is nominal since 5 cards can be printed on one page for 5¢.

As long as I am able to visit the library, I will be happy to check the locality card file to see if there are films available for the town & time period desired. Also, if funds are enclosed for copying and postage, I will have the cards copied.

Miss Ardienna Stegen
4380 Harrison Blvd. Apt. 51
Ogden, Utah 84403

May you have success in your research.

GOOD LUCK !!!!!

We are indeed lucky to have someone like Ardienna who volunteers to search the locality card file in Salt Lake for us, since the branch libraries index will not be updated before a year or two, I think that we are going to keep her quite busy. THANK YOU
ARDIENNA.

Research papers published by the Church.

"Major Genealogical Record Sources for Belgium" Series G, No. 3 1976
The cost is \$ 1.30 , the address is General Church Distribution Center
P.O. Box 11627, Salt Lake City, Ut. 84111

The Hartwell Co., 1617 West 261 st. St., Harbor City Cal. 90710
is publishing the BE-NE-LUX GENEALOGIST (1977 issue) cost \$ 3.00

Charlemagne's empire is now divided into 3 territories, with Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg sandwiched between what was to become 2 powerful nations, France and Germany. But from 850 to 890, these territories were to be faced with the deprivations brought upon them by the Vikings.

Bauduin Bras-de-Fer (Baldwin-Iron-Arm) or the birth of Flanders.

We may as well start our story with once upon a time.....
There was a beautiful princess named Judith, she was the daughter of Charles the Bald, King of France, (843-877) although only 20 years old, she had been widowed twice from 2 saxon kings (Ethelwolf and his son) and had returned to her father's court where she was held almost like a prisoner (most likely in expectation of another profitable marriage), but wait... here come Baldwin Iron Arm, officer of the King, who falls in love with Judith. They eloped knowing very well that the King would never allow such marriage, and found refuge in the territory belonging to Lothaire II, uncle of Judith. Of course Charles the Bald was furious and had them excommunicated and stripped of their ranks and privileges; Baldwin, in a clever maneuver, made believe that he was going to join the Vikings forces who were attacking England and the North western part of Europe. The pope and the bishops pleaded the case of the young couple at the court of the French king who relented and finally gave them his blessing. Baldwin and Judith were named overseers of one of the King's domain located along the coast of Northern Belgium. This my friends was the birth of Flanders. At that time poor land, nothing could ever predict the richness that it was to know in the following centuries. Little by little Baldwin added to his domain the counties of Ghent, Waas, Ternois; he was vassal (owed allegiance) to the King of France for his lands west of the river Scheldt and to the German Emperor for the lands east of the river Scheldt. Baldwin's son, Baldwin II, married a daughter of King Alfred of England, benefiting the Flemish cloth industry interested in english wool; by the 13th. century Ghent was the biggest producer of cloth in Western Europe. The Counts of Flanders were known and admired for their bravery, the same can be said of the Flemish people whose tenacity in face of adversity is also well known to this day.

Learn more about the history of Flanders, about Baldwin of Constantinople, a count of Flanders who became an Emperor; about the Battle of the Golden Spurs when the Flemish people defeated the powerful French cavalry, about the eternal struggle between the Claewaerts and the Liliaerts (I am not sure of the spelling), about Jacques van Artevelde and his son Philippe.

A good book on the subject : The Fair Face of Flanders by Patricia Carson.
it's in English.

Do you know that the Flemish people are also known for their abilities at learning foreign languages and at singing ?